No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/05/11 : LOC-HAK-511-2-15-5

[LD-HK-D192]

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE

April 17, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: B-52 Strikes in Northern Laos

A total of 16 B-52 sorties struck three major target areas southwest of the Plaine des Jarres during the night of April 16/17. The strikes produced 25 secondary explosions up to five times the normal size. The target areas contained significant North Vietnamese troop concentrations, command and control elements, and a strategic enemy logistics base which directly supports enemy units operating in the Long Tieng area.

An air reconnaissance team reported that all strikes appeared on target and sighted numerous craters in the area. General Vang Pao is sending ground reconnaissance teams into each of the target areas today in an attempt to get a more detailed bomb damage assessment. (Map at Tab A)

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

USAF review completed.

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE

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